

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are pending in the application. Claim 11 is newly added. The support of the new claim is in FIG. 5 and paragraph [0066]. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0102875) in view of Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,614). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

First, Claim 1 recites an input device comprising a control unit, “wherein **the control unit detects operating information including an operating direction, an operating speed, and/or a contact time**”. The cited references do not teach or suggest at least this limitation.

The Examiner admits that Fujiwara does not teach a control unit on Page 3 of the office action. The Examiner then alleges Kasai teaches a control unit by disclosing a control unit 104 in FIG. 1 and an automatic gain control circuit 61 in FIG. 29. However, the control unit 104 only determines whether a person is present (Col. 1, lines 25-27). The automatic gain control circuit 61 stabilizes the output of the oscillator unit 1 or the temperature sensor 62 (Col. 8, lines 1-10). Neither the control unit 104 nor the automatic gain control circuit 61 detects **operating information including an operating direction, an operating speed, and/or a contact time**. Kasai fails to teach the control unit detects operating information including an

operating direction, an operating speed, and/or a contact time. With the detected operation information, it is possible for the claimed control unit to determine that the user has performed a tap, a scroll, or a click operation.

Further, claim 1 recites an input device comprising a control unit, "wherein the control unit **monitors** the operating information for all the plurality of electrodes."

The cited references do not teach or suggest at least this limitation.

The Examiner alleges Kasai teaches the limitation by disclosing an automatic gain control circuit 61. However, the automatic gain control circuit 61 stabilizes the output of an oscillator unit 1 (Col. 8, lines 1-2). The Examiner admits that the oscillator unit 1 is a clock signal generating means in the fourth paragraph on Page 3 of the office action. The automatic gain control circuit 61 is a device to **adjust** the clock signal. The automatic gain control circuit 61 does not **monitor** the operating information for all the plurality of electrodes. Kasai fails to teach the above limitation.

Therefore, neither Fujiwara nor Kasai, either singly or combined, teach or suggest the configuration and function of the input device as recited in the currently amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-3, 5-11 are also patentable as dependent claims of allowable independent Claim 1.

Claim 11 recites an input device comprising "a rotating shaft fixed to a bearing portion disposed at a center of an operation region; and a rotary body having a disc shape rotatably supported on the rotating shaft." The cited references are silent on this limitation. Claim 11 is allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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